



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 13, 2008

### **H.R. 5803**

**A bill to direct the Election Assistance Commission to establish a program to make grants to participating states and units of local government which will administer the regularly scheduled general election for federal office held in November 2008 for carrying out a program to make backup paper ballots available in the case of a failure of a voting system or voting equipment in the election or some other emergency situation, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on May 7, 2008*

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 5803 amend current law to establish a grant program to be administered by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Under the legislation, the EAC would provide grants to states and local governments to purchase backup paper ballots to be used in the November 2008 elections. Those paper ballots would be available in the event an electronic voting system failed to operate properly. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million for the grant program. In addition, CBO estimates that the EAC would need \$2 million in fiscal year 2009 to administer the grant program.

Assuming appropriation of the specified and estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5803 would cost \$77 million in 2009. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 5803 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, and tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated that year.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$77 million in fiscal year 2009. Outlays are estimated based on information from the EAC and historical spending patterns of similar grant programs. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5803 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Backup Paper Ballot Grants					
Authorization Level	75	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	75	0	0	0	0
Administrative Oversight					
Estimated Authorization Level	2	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2	0	0	0	0
Total Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	77	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	77	0	0	0	0

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 5803 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments that receive grants.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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